

February 2014

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Norwich University of the Arts. The following document has been produced to provide you with more information about NUA, which I hope will help you decide if you would like to make an application to join us.

Founded in 1845 and celebrating our 170th birthday from September, Norwich University of the Arts is one of the few remaining independent arts, design and media universities in the UK. An outward-looking specialist institution the University is prominent in Norwich and the East of England, enjoying positive and pro-active relationships with other universities, business, the community, schools and colleges. We have developed a strong ethos as a creative academic community, with staff and students fully involved in debate and development.

2013 proved to be another very successful year for us. Having attained full university status at the end of 2012 we were proud and honoured to install renowned actor John Hurt CBE as the University's first Chancellor. He showed great commitment (and stamina!) as he congratulated every student on their success as they crossed the stage at his first NUA graduation ceremony in July. Students and Alumni won a wide range of prizes and awards for their work at a national level including one Oscar nomination, two BAFTAs, a coveted D&AD Yellow Pencil, The Tigerprint Award at New Designers and prizes from Bradford Textiles Society, Association of Photographers and Jerwood.

Most significant of all however were the latest National Student Survey results with NUA students scoring their learning experience higher than all other specialist HE institutions providing creative arts focused degrees in the UK. With 97% student retention and an increase of 17% in applications to study at NUA we feel confident in our offer to students as we continue to pursue our mission to be the best specialist University for arts, design and media study in Europe, producing graduates of the highest quality and inspiring students and staff to achieve excellence in the creative and cultural spheres.

Successful applicants will join a dedicated, friendly team of academic and professional services staff. We realise that making career choices requires careful consideration and hope that you find this pack, along with all the information on the NUA website, provides you with an insight into working at Norwich University of the Arts. As you learn about us I hope you will be inspired by our ethos and plans for the future of the University and that you will want to join our team.

Professor John Last
Vice-Chancellor

WORKING AT NORWICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

INFORMATION

NORWICH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE ARTS

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HISTORY

NUA was established in 1845 to provide good designers for local industries. Our founders were the artists and followers of the Norwich School, the only provincial British group to establish an international reputation for landscape painting. After 1965 the School of Art made its own mark on the national art and design scene when twin strengths in Painting and Graphic Design emerged under a group of exceptional practitioners and teachers.

A national profile and powerful regional ties characterise the University today.

Degree level provision has been offered since 1965, Masters and Research Degrees for 20 years.

Alumni

Graduates of NUA have contributed not only to the distinguished history of the institution but also as influential contributors and commentators on the creative and cultural industries which they serve. Graduates hold key positions at leading organisations, museums, galleries, design agencies, media and film companies throughout the world and many have found success as creative entrepreneurs. Many graduates have also gone on to teach in art and design departments in schools, colleges and universities across the UK.

NUA alumni have contributed to some of the most iconic companies/brands/designs and household names of the 20th and 21st century.

Our long history of celebrated alumni includes painter Alfred Munnings, Turner Prize nominee Glenn Brown, Bob the Builder creator Keith Chapman, Oscar winning Production Designer Stuart Craig and Rastamouse creator Genevieve Webster. Design graduates lead some of the most successful agencies in the country, including Hat-Trick and Carter Wong. Students have gone on to work in creative roles in major organisations such as Blitz, BBC, The Sunday Times, Pearlfisher, Design Bridge, Sony, Crytec and Tate Modern.

Former teaching staff include renowned artists Leslie Davenport, Lucien Freud and Michael Andrews.

We start to celebrate our 170th Birthday in September 2014.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

Norwich University of the Arts is looking to the future with optimism and confidence. We have a reputation for high quality teaching and learning and employability of our graduates. 92% of our 2012 graduates were successful in securing work or further study within six months. In the Complete University Guide 2013, the University was ranked the best specialist art and design institution.

It goes without saying that there are many significant challenges facing us, within UK Higher Education and globally. Chief among these is the long-term impact of the economic downturn, and the turbulence which this is creating at home and abroad and across all sectors. For the University, we seek to continue our investment strategy in estates and staffing so that we can continue to develop and offer the best possible experience to our students and the best possible graduates for the creative and cultural industries.

We have had great success as an academic community and our aim is to build upon this and to take us to a position of even greater academic strength and distinction.

Our Vision

We aim to become the best specialist Higher Education Institution of arts, design and media in Europe, producing graduates of the highest quality and inspiring students and staff to achieve excellence in the creative and cultural spheres.

Our Core Values

Central to the Mission are the following Core Values:

We are committed to:

- Achieving excellence in learning, teaching and the wider student experience, to give our students the best possible preparation for their future lives and careers
- The continuous development of our curriculum and our academic portfolio, to meet the changing needs of students, the creative and cultural sectors, and society

- Research, consultancy and other forms of professional and business engagement, to promote innovation, enterprise and the development of knowledge and skills
- The development of our staff, estate and physical resources, as the bedrock of a professional and supportive academic community, and with equality, diversity and environmental sustainability to the fore
- Growth and development of the University, to build the organisation's long-term sustainability and strengthen our impact

OUR PROVISION AND RESOURCES

We currently have around 1,800 students studying a wide range of arts, design and media disciplines at Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral level. Our students are diverse in age, mode of study and educational background. Although we have a strong regional catchment area, over 50% of students come from outside the UK's Eastern region and from overseas.

NUA offers study at all levels from the four year BA (Hons) degree (Y0) to Research Degrees. It is structured around two Faculties: the Faculty of Arts and Design and the Faculty of Media.

Our provision includes undergraduate courses in:

Faculty of Arts and Design:

Fine Art, Architecture, Fashion, Graphic Communication, Graphic Design, Illustration, Surface Design and Textile Design

Faculty of Media:

Animation, Film and Moving Image Production, Games Art and Design and Photography.

We also offer postgraduate programmes in Communication Design, Curation, Fashion, Fine Art, Moving Image and Sound, Photography and Textile Design.

Courses at the University emphasise learning and discovery through specialist studio and workshop practice. Experimentation with ideas, processes and materials is informed by critical reflection and contextual awareness of the subject. Teaching methods include lectures, demonstrations, project briefs, individual and group tutorials, placements, seminar presentations, work-related learning and exhibition practice. We deliver 'a robust programme of study that successfully combines studio practice with research, business and professional skills and personal development' (Independent QAA Institutional Audit 2010).

Teaching and learning is structured around timetabled sessions and learning activities, and each level of the course is organised into units and delivered through project briefs, which enable students to develop specialist skills as a creative practitioner. The various working environments within the University provide a number of situations where students can make work, engage in research and present their work to others.

Course staff help students engage with relevant contextual influences and develop business and professional skills for their subject within the creative and cultural industries.

All courses work closely with industry. Industry Liaison Groups, consisting of representatives from companies such as Creative Review, Mind Molecule, Baby Cow Productions and Wysing Art Centre meet regularly with course staff at NUA to ensure course content remains current and provide an industry perspective. Links to industry are externally endorsed with Skillset Course accreditation and as an approved Apple-accredited training centre. Course teams are also supported by Visiting Professors who include Sunday Times Design Editor Gordon Beckett, artist Avis Newman, photographer Andy Earl, Chief Executive of Film London and the British Film Commission Adrian Wootton, Games Consultant Gina Jackson, Graphic Designer Sean Perkins and architect Anthony Hudson.

All courses are required to support employability through engagement with national industry events and competitions such as Graduate Fashion Week, D&AD awards and New Designers.

The majority of our teaching staff are themselves practising artists, makers and researchers and together with skilled technicians and inclusive learning support services, we are able to bring out the best in our students and help them to achieve their potential.

Research and Consultancy

We expect our academic staff to be professionally engaged in research and consultancy, activities which are informed by our long history of creative practice and collaboration in the UK and overseas. Research and consultancy embrace work which has national and international significance (and was recognised as such in RAE 2008 which ranked NUA 3rd after RCA and GSA), together with external commissions, advice and support to business, and civic and community projects. We are currently working toward the 2014 REF.

ideasfactory@NUA

ideasfactory@NUA, is the University's commercial creative venture and provides specialist advice, services and skills in art, design, media and related areas. Drawing on our staff expertise and student's new ideas and talent, ideasfactory@NUA undertakes consultancy, projects and commissions for business and external clients.

Examples of commercial work undertaken by students and staff include web design, brand identity, publishing, and art commissions for property developers and private clients. Recent clients include Archant, BBC, Redwell Beer, Startrite and Hopkins Homes.

When it comes to design, style, taste and trend forecasting, our students are knowledgeable, discerning and articulate, and ideasfactory@NUA also offers opportunities to engage students in market research.

The University has been successful in securing Catalyst Funding from HEFCE with additional funding from the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) to create a digital incubation centre for both graduates and local digital businesses on the campus. Planning is underway and the Ideas Factory building should open for business in Summer 2015.

Resources

The quality of our overall offer to students, the professions, and the community, is dependent on the quality of our staff, our estate, and our physical resources. We will continue to develop and maintain an attractive, fit-for-purpose estate that best supports our core activities of learning and teaching, research and knowledge transfer and we will build specialist resources which reflect contemporary professional practice. While recognising the constraints of our estate, we emphasise environmental sustainability in the on going development of our estates and resources.

The Gallery

The Gallery at NUA puts on an annual programme of exhibitions and events. This makes an important contribution to the cultural life of the University and the city, while attracting a wide audience from the UK and overseas. Recent exhibitions include American Graphic Designer Lance Wyman, Marc Camille Chaimowicz, the Clash's Mick Jones' Rock and Roll Library as well as Hayward Touring Shows (Jake and Dinos Chapman) and Staff/Alumni Shows.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Vice-Chancellor

Professor John Last joined Norwich University College of the Arts in January 2009 as Principal and became Vice-Chancellor in December 2012 when the University was granted full university title. After completing a degree in English with Philosophy he took postgraduate awards in Education and Film Theory. In 2008 he was awarded a Chair in Higher Education Management.

John's recent work has been in the area of student satisfaction and the National Student Survey, upon which he has delivered conference papers and seminars over the past two years, whilst serving as a member of the HEFCE National Steering Group for the National Student Survey.

National work includes Board membership of the Higher Education Statistical Agency and the Art, Design and Media Higher Education Academy Subject Centre. In July 2013 he was elected as Vice-Chair of GuildHE, he is on the Executive committee of the Council for Higher Education in Art and Design and Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee for the United Kingdom Arts and Design Institutions Association (UKADIA). John is also Chair of GLAD, the Group for Learning in Art and Design.

Within the eastern region he is a Board member of the Association of Universities in the East of England, the Norwich Heritage Economic & Regeneration Trust (HEART), The East Anglia Art Fund Executive Committee and the Forum Trust.

As Chief Executive, the Vice-Chancellor is accountable to the University Council for the organisation, direction and management of the University and leadership of the staff.

The Strategic Management Group

The Strategic Management Group (SMG) membership comprises the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience), Dean of Faculty of Media, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Design and the Academic Registrar.

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team (SMT) membership comprises the members of the Strategic Management Group, Business Director, Director of Human Resources, Director of Marketing and the Head of Finance.

QUICK FACTS AND FIGURES

- NUA is host to 1,800 students, studying a wide range of arts, design and media disciplines at Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral level.
- We employ almost 200 members of academic and professional services staff and 70 part-time hourly lecturers.
- Undergraduate applications increased by 68% between 2007/8 and 2012/13.
- 2013 NSS results show overall student satisfaction of 88%, higher than all other specialist HE institutions providing creative arts degrees in the UK.
- Student retention rate is 97%.
- 92% of our graduates either gain employment or progressed to further study within 6 months of graduating (DLHE)
- 100% of staff research is designated as nationally recognised, 35% as world leading or internationally excellent.
- Research ranked 3rd in art and design, after RCA and GSA (RAE 2008).
- Our research degrees are offered in partnership with the University of the Arts, London.

OUR LOCATION

Our City Centre campus comprises seven purpose-designed buildings in the centre of the cultural quarter of the city in and around the pedestrianised St Georges Street. They include the Duke Street Building, which houses the library, the Monastery Building, which has been transformed into a state-of-the art Media Lab, The Garth, centre for Photography, Guntons Design and Fashion studios and St Georges, with the traditional high ceilings and huge windows making it ideal studio space for Fine Art.

The Ideas Factory on St Andrews Street is currently being re-designed and due to open in spring 2015. NUA has recently bought two buildings, one of which will be new media and architecture studios also due to open in 2015 and another which will be available when the current tenants move out in 2018.

A location map is available on our website at www.nua.ac.uk/about-us/maps-and-directions.

LIVING IN NORWICH

Norwich is a welcoming city and visitors very quickly feel at home here. The city is home to over 35,000 students in total and so extremely well catered for in terms of nightlife, entertainment, culture and sports.

Consistently rated as one of the safest and 'greenest' cities, Norwich is alive with creativity. A compact and easily walkable city-centre houses six theatres, a flourishing music scene, a permanent six-day market, the vintage and independent shops of the lanes, two shopping malls and three cinemas all against the backdrop of unique preserved and inspirational medieval architecture.

House prices and rents are extremely competitive in Norwich and there is a large choice of different types of housing to suit your choice and budget. Some staff live as close as St Georges Street and others live in different parts of the City or come in from surrounding countryside villages. Norwich provides a range of accommodation which suits both staff and students alike. The campus is a 10 minute walk from the railway station and regular buses connect the centre to other areas of the city.

The A11, the main road which links Norwich to London or Birmingham is currently being improved. The new road will open in December 2014.

NORFOLK

The beautiful county of Norfolk offers stunning countryside and beaches with quiet rural villages and bustling market towns.

Artists have long been inspired by the huge skies and amazing light, which Norfolk is known for and it is all accessible whether you choose to live out of the City or visit different places at the weekends.

The coastline from Hunstanton in the West to Great Yarmouth in the East offers outstanding birds, wildlife, marshes, sand dunes and rollercoasters! The county is known for the culinary delights of crab, samphire and mussels.

There are National Trust Properties to visit; Blickling, Felbrigg and Castle Acre plus the Royal estate of Sandringham and family estates of Holkham and Houghton.

There is so much to see and do in Norfolk that makes it a top county to live in.
For more information on Norwich and Norfolk see:

www.visitnorwich.co.uk

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